

WEEKAPAUG FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 29, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 AM by Moderator Frank Kinney. Those in attendance were Frank Kinney, Tom Dwyer, Dan Richards and Emily Mugge, officers of the Weekapaug Fire District; Carol Lovell Carmody, Amy Carvell, Gale Hunt, Sue Lester, and Jim Maynard, Members-at-Large, and Wes Sparks, Commissioner. Also attending were former Moderators Rick Constantine and Doug Randall, former Board Member Lang Heminway and WFD attorney Deming Sherman.

Those absent were Howard Hyde, Susie Mackay, Scott Wakeman and Peter Seidenberg.

The Minutes of the August 30, 2014 meeting were approved.

Financial Overview: In order to more closely align revenues and expenses in our financial reports, to simplify reporting and to facilitate better understanding of our financial information, Frank proposed a change in the WFD's fiscal year from an April 30 year end to a calendar year end. Dan Richards provided pro forma financial reports to illustrate the impacts of changing the reporting year. Extensive discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of such a change took place. After reviewing reports and evaluating options, the following motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed:

"It is moved that the WFD change the WFD's financial reporting year

from the current Fiscal Year of May 1 to April 30 to a Calendar Year of January 1 to December 30.” This change will be communicated with the community throughout the winter and spring. The change in fiscal year will be discussed in detail at the next Annual meeting in 2015 and will be presented to the WFD homeowners at that time for approval.

Other Business:

Update on Innlet Construction: Frank reported that Howard has done a great job working with the WFC (Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation) on construction of the parking area and renovation of the WFD offices. Howard has been positive and helpful in finding solutions when issues arise. Frank provided updates on two issues of possible concern in the plans for the Innlet that had been discussed in previous meetings. Frank confirmed that the revised landscaping plans no longer include planting trees at the Innlet; the WFD will be responsible for maintaining only shrubs and grass around the WFD offices.

Sale of Ocean Breeze Farm on Noyes Neck Road: Frank notified us that the dairy farm on Noyes Neck Road has been sold to a consortium of organic vegetable farmers. The WFC owns the development rights to the farm, and all changes to the property must be approved by the WFC. Current plans call for the barn and the homes to be renovated and all other sheds and outbuildings to be taken down.

Aquaculture in Quonnie Pond: Frank reported that 3 new applications for aquaculture farms in each of Ninigret and Quonnie ponds have been filed. The application locations in Quonnie are sited off St. John's point, at the east end of the pond and by the channel.

Proposals will be presented to the public on December 1 for Ninigret Pond, and on January 5 for Quonnie Pond. Hearings will be scheduled after feedback is received from the community.

Nopes Island and Salt Ponds Coalition (SPC) are involved in reviewing and responding to the applications. Neither organization is against aquaculture in Quonnie, but both have concerns about the proposed locations, especially the site off St. John's Point.

Following the discussion of aquaculture, it was reported that Nope's Island Conservation Association is interested in entering into a lease with the US F&WS (Fish and Wildlife Service) to protect the Nopes Island property and manage the plant and animal species on the beach. The WFD has already signed an MOU with the US F&WS for the same services. The US F&WS is putting together a regional wildlife plan. There is a possibility that owners of properties from Watch Hill down the coast through the WFD will sign letters of intent with the US F&WS to provide consistent wildlife management across the entire area.

Dog park: Amy and Sue reported that they have looked at various locations in Weekapaug for a dog park. They had identified locations that provided adequate space, but weren't workable for other

reasons. At this point, the WFD isn't sure that people will use the park, that we can police the park effectively or that we can fund it. The search for a dog park will be postponed until we receive feedback on the importance and usefulness of a dog park from the community. Members noted that people bring dogs onto the Weekapaug beaches from Sept. 15 to June 15. Local regulations state that dogs are permitted on PUBLIC beaches, but our beaches are private, and dogs are not allowed on the beaches at any time. Action to keep dogs off the beach will be discussed at a later meeting.

Summer Square Dance: Amy and Sue will discuss this possibility in a later meeting.

Finally, Frank said that he will send an email to the Weekapaug community from the Executive Board outlining news of the winter. The letter will include issues discussed today as well as important reminders that contractors are prohibited from bringing dogs to the worksite, and that construction projects require a \$1000 deposit which will be returned to the homeowner when damage to the adjacent roads is repaired.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: The next meeting date and time will take place at Easter time. The exact time will be determined later.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Emily M. Mugge

Secretary